

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A composition having a disperse system, which comprises
a matrix comprising a water-soluble auxiliary component (C) comprising at least an oligosaccharide (C1), and
a particulate dispersed phase comprising a meltable organic solid component (A) and a coloring agent (B), and being dispersed in the matrix,
wherein the organic solid component (A) is a polymer component.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the coloring agent (B) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an oil-soluble dye and an organic or an inorganic pigment.
4. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the dispersed phase is 0.1 to 100 μm , and the average particle size of the coloring agent (B) is not more than 50% of the average particle size of the dispersed phase.
5. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the dispersed phase is a spherical dispersed phase having a coefficient of variation of an average particle size of not more than 60 and a length ratio of a major axis relative to a minor axis of 1.5/1 to 1/1.
6. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of the coloring agent (B) is 0.001 to 100 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the organic solid component (A).
7. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) comprises at least a tetrasaccharide.

8. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a starch sugar, a galactooligosaccharide, a coupling sugar, a fructooligosaccharide, a xylooligosaccharide, a soybean oligosaccharide, a chitin oligosaccharide and a chitosan oligosaccharide.

9. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) has a viscosity of not lower than 1 Pa·s when a 50% by weight aqueous solution of the oligosaccharide is measured at a temperature of 25°C by a B-type viscometer.

10. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the auxiliary component (C) comprises the oligosaccharide (C1) and a water-soluble plasticizing component (C2) for plasticizing the oligosaccharide (C1).

11. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) shows a melting point or softening point or is decomposed at a temperature higher than a heat distortion temperature of the organic solid component (A), and the melting point or softening point of the plasticizing component (C2) is not higher than the heat distortion temperature of the organic solid component (A).

12. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the plasticizing component (C2) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a saccharide and a sugar alcohol.

13. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 12, wherein the sugar alcohol comprises at least one member selected from the group of erythritol, pentaerythritol, arabitol, ribitol, xylitol, sorbitol, dulcitol and mannitol.

14. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the ratio (weight ratio) of the oligosaccharide (C1) relative to the plasticizing component (C2) is 99/1 to 50/50.

15. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the ratio (weight ratio) of the organic solid component (A) relative to the auxiliary component (C) is 55/45 to 1/99.

16. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a particle ~~comprising an organic solid component (A) and a coloring agent (B)~~, which comprises

a first step of forming a compositional structure by melt-kneading an organic solid polymer component (A), a coloring agent (B) and a water soluble auxiliary component (C) comprising at least an oligosaccharide (C1),

wherein this melt-kneading step forms the compositional structure having:

~~eluting a water soluble auxiliary component (C) from a composition having a disperse system which comprises~~

i) a matrix (continuous phase) comprising the water-soluble auxiliary component (C) comprising at least an oligosaccharide (C1), and

ii) a particulate dispersed phase comprising the organic solid polymer component (A) and the coloring agent (B), and being dispersed in the matrix (continuous phase),

wherein the process further comprises a second step of eluting the water soluble auxiliary component (C) from the composition to produce a particle comprising the organic solid polymer component (A) and the coloring agent (B) the organic solid component (A) is a polymer component, and

~~wherein the composition is obtained by melt kneading the organic solid component (A), the coloring agent (B) and the water soluble auxiliary component (C).~~

17. (Withdrawn) A particle obtainable by a process recited in claim 16.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the coloring agent (B) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of an oil-soluble dye and an organic or an inorganic pigment.
20. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the average particle size of the dispersed phase is 0.1 to 100 μ m, and the average particle size of the coloring agent (B) is not more than 50% of the average particle size of the dispersed phase.
21. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the particle is spherical and has an average particle size of 0.1 to 100 μ m, a coefficient of variation of the average particle size of not more than 60, and a length ratio of a major axis relative to a minor axis of 1.5/1 to 1/1.
22. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the proportion of the coloring agent (B) is 0.001 to 100 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the organic solid component (A).
23. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) comprises at least a tetrasaccharide.
24. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a starch sugar, a galactooligosaccharide, a coupling sugar, a fructooligosaccharide, a xylooligosaccharide, a soybean oligosaccharide, a chitin oligosaccharide and a chitosan oligosaccharide.
25. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) has a viscosity of not lower than 1 Pa·s when a 50% by weight aqueous solution of the oligosaccharide is measured at a temperature of 25°C by a B-type viscometer.

26. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the auxiliary component (C) comprises the oligosaccharide (C1) and a water-soluble plasticizing component (C2) for plasticizing the oligosaccharide (C1).

27. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 26, wherein the oligosaccharide (C1) shows a melting point or softening point or is decomposed at a temperature higher than a heat distortion temperature of the organic solid component (A), and the melting point or softening point of the plasticizing component (C2) is not higher than the heat distortion temperature of the organic solid component (A).

28. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 26, wherein the plasticizing component (C2) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a saccharide and a sugar alcohol.

29. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 28, wherein the sugar alcohol comprises at least one member selected from the group of erythritol, pentaerythritol, arabitol, ribitol, xylitol, sorbitol, dulcitol and mannitol.

30. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 26, wherein the ratio (weight ratio) of the oligosaccharide (C1) relative to the plasticizing component (C2) is 99/1 to 50/50.

31. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the ratio (weight ratio) of the organic solid component (A) relative to the auxiliary component (C) is 55/45 to 1/99.

32. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein the melt-kneading is performed on an organic solid polymer component (A) comprising a water-insoluble polymer.